

Application Serial No. 10/046,185
Amdt. dated July 10, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 31, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A container plug attaching device according to claim [2 or 3] 8 wherein the engaging projection for fitting the plug thereover, is located on the clamping face of the anvil [is provided with an engaging projection for fitting the plug thereover,] and the supply means has a plug transport member having a delivery opening opposed to a path of movement of the projection for transporting the plug with the end opening thereof facing toward the same direction as the delivery opening, [the plug transportation member being provided with] wherein the delivery means [for pushing out] pushes the plug out from the delivery opening so as to fit the plug over the projection as the projection is moved to the position of the delivery opening

Claim 5 (original): A container plug attaching device according to claim 4 wherein the delivery means has a pushing-out member moveable through the delivery opening toward or away from the path of movement of the projection, and the pushing-out member has a plug suction face opposed to the path of movement of the projection, the suction face being so shaped as to gradually approach the path of movement of the projection from an upstream side thereof with respect to the

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path toward a downstream side thereof, the distance between the clamping face of the anvil and the path downstream side of the suction face of the pushing-out member as moved toward the path is equal to the height of the plug.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A container plug attaching device according to claim 4 wherein the rotary shaft extends horizontally, the anvil being directed downward when in the sealing posture, a container transport conveyor being provided at a level below the rotary shaft, the conveyor having a container transport path extending in a direction transverse to the rotary shaft and [joining] intersecting a lower end of the path of movement of the projection, the anvil and the conveyor being drivable in synchronism so as to insert an outer end of the anvil as moved toward the sealing posture into an upper-end opening of the container and to position the container edge portion between the projection of the anvil in the sealing posture and the sealing member.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A container plug attaching device according to [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 8 wherein the anvil has a base end portion fixed to the rotary shaft and an outer end portion provided with plug holding means, and the outer end portion is offset from the base end portion axially of the rotary shaft by a distance greater than the distance corresponding to the thickness of the base end portion.

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Claim 8 (New): A container plug attaching device for attaching to an edge portion of a container defining an outlet opening therefrom a tubular plug having an opening therethrough and a flange for disposition around the edge portion of the container opening, the device including an anvil and a sealing member which cooperate to clamp therebetween for sealing the container edge portion and the flange by pressing, the container plug attaching device comprising:

a rotary shaft carrying an anvil extending radially therefrom and carrying a plug-engaging projection projecting from a clamping face of the anvil;

A3 drive means operative to rotate the rotary shaft on an intermittent basis stopping the anvil at a sealing position with respect to the container outlet opening and opposite the sealing member;

supply means for supplying plugs to the anvil including a plug transport member and reciprocable delivery means operable in timed sequence with rotation of the shaft to transfer a plug to the plug-engaging projection of the anvil during movement of the anvil toward the sealing position; and

means actuable when the anvil is in the sealing position for operating the sealing member to attach the plug to the container.